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VOL. II NO. 251

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1947.

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HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,
For and on behalf of
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.
Editor, W.H. Shand
FIFTH MANAGER

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PUBLIC NOT VERY INTERESTED IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PLAN

Moscow Trade Talks

Britain Digging In Her Toes

London, July 24.
Britain has flatly refused to yield any further concessions to Russia in the Anglo-Soviet trade talks at Moscow and the conference will collapse unless the Russians sharply reduce their asking price for wheat, a Government source said today.

Mr Harold Wilson, chief British negotiator, postponed his departure from Moscow indefinitely today and was seeing the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, Anastas Mikoyan, for a "do or die" meeting.

The British Government was awaiting a full report of this meeting but unless Mr Mikoyan brought Russia's wheat price into line with the price paid by Britain to Canada for grain, the talks were expected to be cancelled, the source said. "We are digging our toes in," he said.

The position was anxious for Britain for Whitehall had hoped to get enough wheat from Russia to enable her to end bread rationing this autumn, especially if the domestic harvest were good.

MUST GO ELSEWHERE

If Russia insisted on her present price for wheat—which is "well over" the Chicago top of US\$2.40 a bushel—Britain will be forced to buy wheat elsewhere, the source said. She would prefer to buy it from non-dollar European markets if the European countries have enough wheat for export purposes.

Britain's major fear was that meeting Russia's price on a bulk purchase of wheat would lead Canada to demand a revision of the Anglo-Canadian bulk purchase agreement which established the price of Canadian wheat at US\$1.55 a bushel. Although no official source would confirm it, Britain was generally understood, however, to be paying Argentina US\$3.40 a bushel under a bulk purchase agreement with the South Americans.

A high Government source said that aside from a "quite considerable gap" between the bid and the prices asked at Moscow, "minor disagreements" had threatened to wreck the trade talks.

He said Mr. Wilson and Mr. Mikoyan had reached an agreement on timber and it was "statistically from the British viewpoint, both regarding the quality and price of Russian timber." But the timber agreement would be made void unless agreement also was reached on wheat.

He said the Russians were insisting on new credit terms, which Britain was willing to give for a full-fledged trade agreement but not for a timber contract alone.

The problem is tied in closely with Britain's dollar dilemma—United Press.

EDITORIAL

Welcome, Sir Alexander!

TODAY Hongkong offers welcome to Sir Alexander Graham not only because he is the Colony's new Governor, but because he returns as an old friend, and a tried, trusted and diligent servant. It can be regarded as a happy sign that Sir Alexander, who started his colonial service career as a cadet in Hongkong 25 years ago, returns now as its supreme executive officer and Commander-in-Chief, climaxing a distinguished career. It is propitious, at a time when the Colony is passing through a difficult post-war period and into an era of constitutional changes and new developments, that administrative leadership should be given to a man who has already gained the esteem and admiration of the community; that he is a man who comes as a friend and not a stranger, as one well versed in the complex mass psychology of this heterogeneous settlement. It means that mutual understanding will be reached all the quicker and that Hongkong can look forward to a sensitive appreciation of its problems and needs. Sir Alexander will find the Colony, is confronted with problems which, while not particularly novel, are

Two Inches Of Rain

The Royal Observatory reports that for the 24 hours ending 8 a.m. today, 2.02 inches of rain were recorded.

Heaviest fall for one hour was 1.10 inches between 2 and 3 this morning.

GOLD SALES DECISION

May Upset Applecart

New York, July 24.
Now that the United States, Britain, Mexico and the Philippines have contributed to the stoppage of private sales of foreign gold at prices above the monetary parities, a new phase is entering the picture, which may "upset the applecart."

A leading domestic refiner told Reuters that discussions were held in Washington yesterday with United States Government officials in connection with private sales of foreign gold at prices above the monetary parities, and that the United States Government spokesman concluded that the Government, under the existing legislation, could not legally prohibit any such sales.

This means that, aside from the United States Government's recent "request" for all American interests concerned to refrain from participating in such sales, there is really nothing new, except that banks under pressure from the Federal Reserve System will probably continue to refrain from participating in such business.

MUST START AGAIN

"This situation implies that we will probably again have to start from scratch," a bullion dealer said. Export licences for shipment of foreign gold from the United States above parities are definitely being released by Washington during the past few days—one licence, in particular, was issued as late as yesterday—Reuters learn.

There is one temporary hitch remaining to be solved. Namely, who will buy gold now that the distribution facilities of London bullion brokers are restricted?

The silver market appears plentifully supplied to meet normal consumer demands. In view of the continued foreign indifference, consumers are more relaxed and today purchased only 175,000 ounces on the basis of 62 cents.—Reuters.

Food For Germans

Berlin, July 24.

The arrival of nearly 70,000 tons of food worth US\$700,000 during the third week of July was announced today by the American military government. The imports are part of the Anglo-American bilateral feeding programme.—United Press.

"Telegraph" Survey Indications

"Too Busy" To Read Details

The "Young plan" to give residents a degree of self-government through a Municipal Council had aroused little interest among Colony residents up to today, a Hongkong Telegraph inquiry indicates.

More than three-fourths of the men and women queried late yesterday confessed they "hadn't read the proposal," which was printed in detail in the morning papers.

The majority pleaded lack of time. One man said "the story looked too long and involved" to read, and a woman asked in surprise, "What Municipal Council? I hadn't heard about it."

Those familiar with the constitutional reform programme called "a step in the right direction" and "a challenge to the people to show real citizenship."

The only criticism came from a "confessed cynical old-timer" who commented, "I'd like to see it work, but I don't think it will. People out here don't give a damn about good government."

"EXCELLENT IDEA"

The Municipal Council is "an excellent idea," said Mr. F. C. Cleary, chairman of the Kowloon Residents Association, adding, "I hope there are sufficient public-spirited people in this Colony to see that it is carried out properly. If there are, it will make a better Hongkong."

Mrs. Margaret Hunter Brown, chairman of the now Hongkong Council of Women, expressed the hope that women would take an active part in voting and carrying out the plan.

"The creation of the Council offers women a great opportunity to serve the community and to find new interests for themselves," she stated. "Women ought to be interested in local government, and they need to be more politically minded."

"I personally think the proposals will be agreeable to the majority of the people," commented Mr. H. Y. Tao, secretary of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. "I cannot speak for the Chamber because we have not discussed the matter since we submitted our suggestions (to Government) some time ago."

IN RIGHT DIRECTION

It's an important step in the right direction," Mrs. A. W. Ingram believed. "I will be interested to see how it will work out in practice."

A business man said the Council was "something we've wanted a long time. I would like to see us have more self-government than it proposes, but I suppose we have to show that we are capable of assuming responsibility."

More typical of public reaction, however, was this comment, also from a business man. "I don't know a thing about it. I've been so busy today, I hardly had time to read the cricket results. Perhaps I can get around to the Council tonight."

The cross-section survey included Britons, Chinese, Indians, Portuguese and Americans. People were questioned on the streets, in stores, in hotels and offices, and by telephone.

AMERICANS' POSITION

American residents wondered whether they could vote under the Municipal Council scheme without endangering their American citizenship.

Consular officials said the questions involved were "being taken up with Washington" and promised clarification of the situation in a few weeks.

Most Americans leaving home are worried they cannot vote elsewhere or their citizenship is cancelled.

Six Rioters Killed

Calcutta, July 24.
Six persons were killed and 14 injured, today, when 7,000 coal workers at Lavaibari in the Jharia district of Bihar province attacked the power plant and the police, after ineffectively using tear gas, fire and water.

The crowd, United Press.

FEDERATION OF MALAYA

Revised Proposals

London, July 25.
Revised proposals for the establishment of a federation of Malaya which will put nine Malay states and two British settlements under British protection were announced in a White Paper published on Thursday.

A few hours later, the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, told the Commons that he endorsed Mr. Bevin's plan.

The Secretary spoke to an audience at Emmanuel School in Battersea during the presentation of school prizes.

POTENT ARGUMENT

Replying to criticism of war-time conscription of youths during the war for coal production, for which he was responsible, Mr. Bevin said: "I found that there was a horror of going down in the mines and it was thought I was doing something hideous. I must emphasise that however good or bad an advocate of foreign affairs I may be—according to your political opinions—I am not so potent an argument as 40,000,000 extra tons of coal."

Meanwhile, in the Commons a lively coal debate ensued between the Prime Minister and Mr. Raymond Blackburn (Lab.).

Mr. Blackburn charged that at the present rate of production, the newly-nationalised coal mines would undershoot the minimum goal for the year by at least 5,000,000 tons.

The Government has set 200,000,000 tons as the minimum goal and Mr. Blackburn claimed that no more than 195,000,000 tons would be mined.

Mr. Attlee replied heatedly that it was too early yet to say what total production for 1947 would be.

"I can assure the House that every effort is being made to raise the amount required," he said.—United Press.

RESERVED POWER

Reserved power is given to the High Commissioner to give effect to any bill which the Legislative Council fails to pass in reasonable time and which he considers necessary.

The Federal Legislative Council will comprise three unofficial members, 11 official members, the nine presidents of the Councils of State in the Malay States, one representative of each settlement Council and 59 other unofficial members nominated by the Government.

The Federation's Central government will consist of a High Commissioner appointed by the King, a Federal Executive Council and a Federal Legislative Council which will be empowered to legislate over a field wide enough to ensure a strong Central government.

SWIFT TANK ADVANCE

In the west, Dutch tanks in a

swift 75-mile advance from Bandung

had captured the major Republican

port of Cheribon, the birthplace of

the still disputed Indonesian inde-

pendence agreement.

Bevin's Plea For Miners

London, July 24.
The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, who got his start in a coal mine, today urged parents and school teachers to encourage children to enter the mines and help close the critical manpower gap which threatened an economic collapse in Britain.

"This country cannot survive without coal," Mr. Bevin stated. "The great burning need of this country is acceptance by parents that mining is a respectable and honourable as any profession and is vitally necessary if our country is to survive."

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MILD EARTHQUAKE

Los Angeles, July 24.

A mild earthquake was felt in Los Angeles today. The tremor was also felt in Santa Ana.—United Press.

Luxury Liner Starts On Her Final Trials

Southampton, July 25.
The Queen Mary, Britain's luxury liner that transported more than 750,000 troops during seven years of war, set out on her final trials on Thursday before resuming trans-Atlantic passenger service on July 31.

Fresh from a complete refitting that took nearly a year, the 81,235-ton Cunard Liner surpassed in size only by the Queen Elizabeth, her sister ship, headed towards the English Channel early on Thursday morning.

After a two-day shakedown cruise with 500 distinguished guests on board, the Queen Mary will return to Southampton preparatory to sailing for New York next week on the post-war maiden voyage of her scheduled weekly crossings.—Associated Press.

Dutch Win Control Of Strategic Areas

SPECTACULAR SUCCESSES

Batavia, July 25.

The powerfully equipped Dutch army in four days of mobile warfare apparently has won its campaign for control of Java's strategic areas—but in the mountain and village strongholds the Indonesians planned for another kind of resistance.

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Soekarno also broadcast an appeal to President Truman and the American people "to exert every effort to halt this war in Indonesia" and "stand up to the principles of justice and right for which you fought so valiantly only two years ago."—Associated Press.

Playing in a temperature of 100 degrees in the shade, Brown was never able to settle down. He became well by winning the first two games, but fell away and could take only two of the next 14 games.

The young American's service was particularly weak and in only vital games, the third in the first set—he was double faulted three times.

Asboth played tenaciously and his rallying was remarkable. For the most part he played from the back court, but his few excursions to the net usually proved profitable.

In the other men's singles semi-final, Eric Sturges, South African champion, after staving off three match points in the fourth set, went on to score a brilliant victory over the French holder of the title, Marcel Bernard. Sturges won 3-0, 2-0, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

The main reason for the South African's success was that he contested every point to the limit. In the final set, both men seemed tired, but the Frenchman appeared to suffer most. In this set, Sturges, holding the initiative, mixed his attack cleverly and kept his opponent on the run. Bernard fought valiantly to rally from a 1-4 deficit.

Five South African players

FILMS

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TO-DAY

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OWING TO THE PUBLIC RECEPTION OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR, SIR ALEXANDER GRANTHAM, K.C.M.G., TAKING PLACE AT THIS THEATRE AT 6 P.M., THERE WILL ONLY BE THREE SHOWS TO-DAY. THE TIMES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

1.30, 7.00 & 9.30 P.M.

HELD OVER!!



"WELL, if you're sure that's all you have, I suppose the only thing to do is start over again."

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At 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

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CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE FACES NEW DANGER

By CLAUD MULLINS

Sigmar Marconi, married in 1908, he divorced his wife and in 1924 he successfully petitioned the Roman Catholic Court at Westminster for nullity on this ground. He was thus free to be married again in a Roman Catholic church.

One of the proposals of those who want to revise the Canon Law of the Church of England is that there should be Church Courts for members of the Anglican Church and that such courts should have power to make marriages void, in other words, to grant decrees of nullity.

By Back Door

too wise to accept the proposal of his colleagues about marriage.

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Albania To Face World Court

The Hague, July 24. The Albanian Foreign Office has announced that Albania will appear before the International Court of Justice here to answer Britain's complaint about the sinking of the British destroyers *Sauvage* and *Voltigeur* in the Corfu Channel on October 22 last year.

The announcement disclosed that Albania had filed a letter with the Court Registry to this effect, and said that the Albanian Government complained of the fact that the British Government had brought the matter before the Court by unilateral action. It was added that neither the Statute of the Court, nor Article 25 of the United Nations Charter—which was evoked by the British Government—nor general international law could justify this procedure.—Reuter.

GENEVA CONFERENCE REPORT

Geneva, July 24. The Trade and Employment Conference issued an official progress report today, showing that South Africa had made five of seven tariff agreements completed by the middle of July.

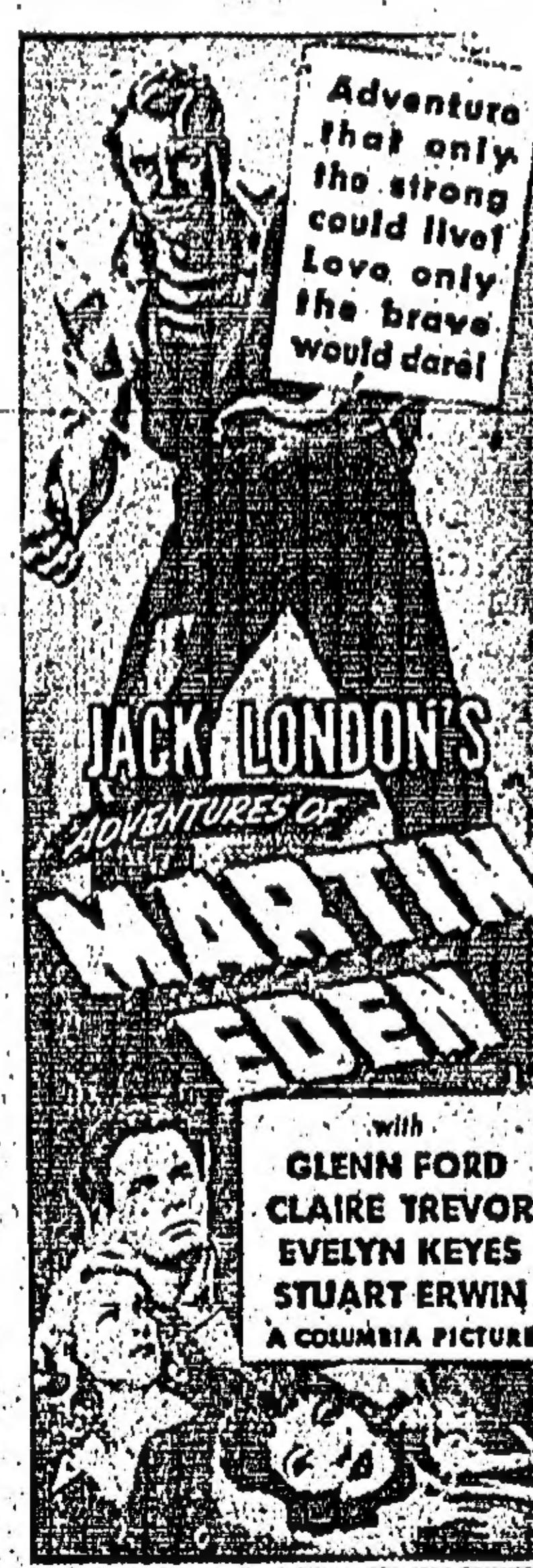
The report said South Africa had reached agreements with Czechoslovakia, China, Cuba, Norway and Chile, and Norway have completed negotiations, and also Canada and Czechoslovakia. Results of the agreements are subject to adjustments that may be required in light of other negotiations.

The report said the total number of negotiations in progress was 102 and the total number of tariff meetings was 407. All delegates and staffs started a three-day rest today—the first break in the continuous negotiations since the conference opened on April 10.—United Press.

DR SJAHRIR IN NEW DELHI

New Delhi, July 24. The former Indonesian Premier, Dr Sjahrir, who flew through the Dutch blockade to seek help for his invaded homeland, arrived here today and went immediately into conference with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Dr Sjahrir was met at New Delhi airport by an Under-Secretary of the Indian External Affairs Department.—United Press.



Adventure that only the strong could live! Love only the brave would dare!

JACK LONDON'S
ADVENTURES OF
JACK LONDON

With
GLENN FORD
CLAUDE TREVOR
EVELYN KEYES
STUART ERWIN
A COLUMBIA PICTURE

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NOTICE

Advertisers are requested to note that no advertisements (with the exception of urgent notices) will be accepted between the hours of 12.30 noon Saturdays, and 9 a.m. on Mondays.

From and including Mondays to Fridays, copy for the following days must be submitted not later than 4 p.m.

S. C. M. POST,
H.K. TELEGRAPH.

CHIANG LIKELY TO GET AID

BY ERNEST HOBERECHT
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Nanking, July 24.

Lt-Gen Wedemeyer's mission to China marks an end of the United States' hopes of any kind of agreement between Chinese Nationalist and Communist elements. This was pointed out today by a high American official here in Nanking, who is in a position to exert influence on Gen Wedemeyer's final recommendations to President Truman.

This well-informed source said Gen Wedemeyer's presence is an indication that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has a good chance of getting substantial new American backing. He said if the United States ever wants to do anything towards straightening out China, action must be taken immediately. It was his considered opinion, he said, that things would get worse before they got better.

With the Communists reluctant to trust the National Government of Nanking and the Nationalists now determined to wipe out the Communists, there is no hope for mediation leading to co-operation at present, from a first hand study of the situation. He thinks there are three courses open to the United States. Undoubtedly he will suggest them to Gen Wedemeyer. They are: 1. A complete hands-off policy; 2. A middle-of-the-road "watch and wait" programme; and 3. Open and substantial assistance to Chiang's government.

"The largest units of the force are at Yenchi, where four brigades are stationed, at Tungtwa, at Mengtang and Swangcheng, says the dispatch. "They were accompanied by Soviet Union officers and their movements were reported to have been directed by Soviet military commanders in North Korea. Wounded Koreans are being returned from fighting fronts to hospitals in the Soviet-occupied zone of Korea. The Korean troops are equipped with Russian small arms and Japanese artillery pieces."

"Their limited motor transport consists of American trucks, and jeeps lend-leased to Russia during the war. Former Japanese arsenals in Manchuria have been put back into operation to supply these forces and the Chinese Communist armies and Japanese technicians and POWs are being employed to operate them.

One such arsenal at Tultsugou, Manchuria, manufactures hand grenades and repairs small arms.

"Although the Soviets deny that they are extending aid to Chinese Communist forces, this evidence that Russian-trained Korean troops are being employed in Manchuria is regarded as conclusive by American military sources in South Korea.

"The belief here is that if the Joint United States-Soviet Commission breaks up, the North Korean Army eventually may drive south where there is no comparable Korean force capable of opposing it."—United Press.

Letters To The Editor

War Criminals

Sir.—We are very glad to observe notice being taken of the wave of commutations of war crime sentences.

This sickening travesty of justice is by no means isolated or local.

Last week Lt-Gen Sir John Harding, professional, commuted the just sentence on Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, professional, from death to life imprisonment. At the trial up leapt Lt-Gen Sir Oliver Leese, professional, to the defence and said, "He was a gallant soldier who fought well and squarely. If things had gone the other way, the man sentenced to death might have been me."

We will not dwell on what this admission obviously implies, but you will note the professional's definition of "fighting squarely"—Kesselring was sentenced for the reprisal murder of 1,413 innocent Italian civilians.

The death sentence on Italian General Oreste Bellomo was carried out—no commutation here—he was sentenced for having killed one British soldier.

A search will disclose the common factor pointed out above in other cases. As Montgomery said recently, in order to be a successful soldier (professional) you have to be "a bit of a cad"—a masterpiece of understatement.

The reason for these commutations lies not in the simple fact that "Dog does not eat Dog."

The whole business so obviously stinks to high heaven that even to think about it makes one retch.

Until the poor dupe of this world sit up and demand to know why they are subjected to two opposing sets of laws—The Rules of War and the "Rules in Peace"—there will never be peace on this earth.

Under the rules of War the professionals quite literally can and do get away with murder and, worse, can force decent people to follow their no-excellent example—if people were held responsible for their killings do you think that anyone, even a professional, would ever go to war?

We hold no brief for pacifism but under the present rules of the present silly game the wrong people get killed, nothing is achieved and nobody wins—except possibly the people who "make a living" out of it.

P. B. PUBLIC

Paris, July 24.

The police announced today that they had raided the premises of Cartier, swank jewellers on the famed Rue de la Paix, and had seized 20,000,000 francs worth of gold and foreign currency belonging to members of personnel and friends and clients.

The police said they had also seized papers tending to show that the firm had failed to declare to the currency control authorities certain sums in its possession abroad.—United Press.

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